

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

Mt. Vernon-Black Township Parks and Recreation

**** Each team is responsible for this information. ****

I. OBJECTIVE OF THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT SOFTBALL PROGRAM:

To provide an enjoyable leisure time activity for all people interested in athletics as conducted by this Department, respecting the fundamentals of sportsmanship, honesty, and fair play. **INTEGRITY** must be a basic part of this program. (NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH THE ENJOYMENT OF OTHERS, AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DO SO.)

II. LEAGUE CLASSIFICATION

- Church League -- (Tuesday) 3 Home Run Rule, after 3 its an out (progressive)
- C League -- Intermediate (Friday) 6 Home Run Rule, after 6 its an out (progressive)
- D League -- Recreational (Wednesday) 3 Home Run Rule, after 3 its an out (progressive)
- Co-ed -- (Monday, or TBA) 3 Home Run Rule, after 3 its an out (non-progressive)

III. SPORTSMANSHIP - EACH MANAGER WILL BE HELD DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF HIS/HER TEAM AND THE TEAM FOLLOWERS. This rule must be clearly understood. All managers will be held accountable for all matters discussed at the organizational meeting conducted by the Recreation Department. The umpires and Recreation Manager are in charge of the ball diamonds. Their decisions and judgement are not to be interfered with by any team or their followers. Please work with the Recreation Manager to make this an enjoyable softball season.

- A. ALCOHOL IS PROHIBITED IN DUGOUTS AND IN SURROUNDING AREAS. PLAYERS APPEARING TO BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR SEEN CONSUMING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING THE GAME WILL BE EJECTED.

IV. REGULATIONS:

- A. The participant Conduct Code will be enforced throughout the season.
- B. A player may be on the roster to one team only. Being on two rosters automatically makes the player ineligible until released by one manager. (Any team using ineligible player(s) forfeits all games where said player has participated).
- C. Registration and Entry Fee -- There is a \$75 team fee for each team. This will be due prior to the start of the teams 3rd game. If the fee is not paid in full by the third game that team will forfeit each game until this money is paid.
A representative of each team shall submit to the Recreation Department the following before their team will be entered into a league.
 - 1. A complete roster on supplied forms filled out with a minimum of 10 players.
 - 2. A check or cash for the exact amount.
 - 3. Any team giving false information on a roster shall be dismissed from the league without any money being refunded.
- D. Managers may roster a player by calling the parks office, this will be the official roster. No player may be added once 75% of games have been played.
- E. Male and female participants must be 15 years old by July 31st.
- F. "D" league teams may have a maximum of 3 "C" league players on their roster starting in 2007. Each player must be properly rostered in both leagues

V. RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- A. The current ASA Softball Rules will govern all contests in league play unless provided for in other sections of these guidelines.
- B. Any player, coach, or manager who is ejected from a game will not be allowed to play until the incident has been reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Department.

- C. Teams consist of 10 or more players, but a game may start with as few as 8 players per team (recreation rule). Without at least 8 players at game time, the game will be ruled a forfeit.
 - D. Games are 7 innings or 1 hour time limit. Last inning in progress is completed. No games will end in a tie, regardless of time. An inning will not start with 1:00 minute or less to go in a game!
 - E. All balls hit in the air over the fence will be considered home runs. ASA Home Run Rule will not apply in City Leagues.
 - F. Any abusive language, act, or unsportsmanlike conduct towards any umpire will not be tolerated. Any player, coach, manager, or spectator violating this rule in the umpire's judgement is subject to ejection, suspension, and fine. (also see Casual Obscenity Rule).
 - G. Twelve run rule: If a team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 5 innings (4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead) the game will be called and considered complete.
 - H. The Department has the right to assign teams to the upper and lower league to keep parity in the two leagues. Thus, there is a possibility that the prior years 1st place team in the Men's D league will move to the Men's C league. The prior last place team in the Men's C league will move to the Men's D league for the upcoming season. The same rules apply to the Men's C and Men's D league. This will be done at the discretion of the Parks Dept. If a team does not want to move up into the next higher league, they must: Divide their players into groups of no more than 5 players per team, within the same league
 - I. Illegal Batter: If the batter steps out of the batter's box or approximate area where a batter's box should be, the batter shall be declared out by the umpire.
 - J. There will be no "digging in" in the batter box by the batter.
 - K. As of 2007, All leagues will be using "Single Wall" bats only. ALL TITANIUM BATS AND BATS LISTED BY THE ASA AS BANNED WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN LEAGUE PLAY.
 - If caught using an illegal bat your team will automatically forfeit that game. A second violation will result in Forfeiture for remainder of season.
- **NO REFUND WILL BE GIVEN****

VI. **BLOOD RULE**

A player, coach, or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgement. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required. The umpire shall:

- A. Stop the game and allow treatment if the injured player would affect the continuation of the game.
- B. Immediately call a coach, trainer, or other authorized person to the injured player.
- C. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, short-handed player and re-entry if necessary.

The Parks & Recreation Dept. will have a spray bottle of an ammonia/water mixture available to be applied only to blood stains on players clothing or uniforms, which can be used to neutralize a blood stain. This will be located inside the Adult Softball Field maintenance building and will be given to players as needed by the scorekeeper in charge.

VII. **STARTING AND STOPPING REGULATIONS:**

- A. Scoreboard & scorekeeper has the official time displayed on the scoreboard.
- B. **FORFEIT TIME IS GAME TIME!** On a team's first forfeit, that team will have to pay a forfeit fee of \$16.00 to the Mt. Vernon - Black Township Parks & Recreation Department before their next league game. This must be paid at the office and not at the playing field. If this fee is not paid, then all games will be forfeited until each fee is paid.

- C. Lineups must be turned in before scheduled game time or it will be ruled a forfeit. This will be enforced!
- D. If the previous game ended early, the next game will not start until scheduled time. If a game runs late, the following game will begin immediately.

VIII. SCHEDULE:

- A. There will be no changes in schedules unless authorized by the Recreation Department.
- B. Games will not be rescheduled so that teams can play in other leagues or tournaments.

IX. PROTEST:

- A. If there is a protest by a team, the cost is \$25.00 cash at the time of protest. This can only be done by The MANAGER or the ASST. MANAGER only of game in question, no one else will be allowed to protest. You must let the umpire, the scorekeeper and the opposing manager know you are playing under protest. If the protest is won by an individual or team, they will receive \$15.00 back, if lost, receive nothing. A written letter of protest must be received by the Parks & Recreation Department no later than **48 hours** after the protest has been made or it is not valid. At this time the protest will be reviewed and further information will be gathered from all parties involved. A decision will then be made by the Parks Department, this decision will be final.

X. GENERAL:

- A. When there is doubt as to the condition of ball diamonds, THE PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT, will call all coaches when games are to be canceled. The Department will call all the managers after 4:30 p.m. Games will be played if at all possible.
- B. All games will be canceled by 4:30 p.m. of the playing day regardless of weather changes after this time. Managers will be contacted as early as possible. The field umpire will be responsible for calling games after 5pm. His decision will be final.
- C. Rained-out games: Will be made up in the order of cancellation on designated rain dates, or as scheduled by the Recreation Manager.
- D. All rain dates scheduled will be final.

XI. MANAGERS

- A. If you feel that there is a problem that needs to be dealt with, please call the Parks Department at 838-3691 and speak with the Recreation Manager.

XII. UNIFORMS

- A. Ball caps are not a requirement.
- B. Matching shirts are not necessary, but nice.
- C. Steel cleats will not be worn. If a player does wear steel cleats, he/she will be asked to leave the field until the participant has the correct footwear.

XIII. TIE BALL GAMES:

- A. Men & Women: **FINISH OUT THE GAME!!**
- B. If at the end of the season, two or more teams are tied for 1st place, it will be determined by head to head meetings during the regular season. If at this point two teams split during the regular season, position will be determined by aggregate scoring.

XIV. AWARDS

- A. Men & Women: 1st & 2nd place sponsor trophies.
- B. Church Co-ed: Church name on traveling plaque, to be held by the 1st place team each year.

XV. RE-ENTRY GUIDELINES:

- A. Only in case of injury, a player may enter the scorebook in a different order.
(See ASA Rule book for additional guidelines to injury or player substitutions).

"EVERYBODY BATS (10) PEOPLE PLAY RULE"

All teams will have the opportunity to utilize the "Everybody Bats Ten (10) People Play Rule" for each game. It will be left up to the discretion of each team as to whether they will play utilizing this rule or not; however, once a team begins a game playing with this rule, it must be used throughout the game. The following guidelines apply:

- A. The complete batting order must contain every team member listed on the official roster that is present at the game. The only exception is the coach or manager of a team. If a team wishes to utilize this rule but for some reason opts not to play a roster team member that is present, that individual cannot appear on the field of play.
- B. Do not place any player's name in the line up that is not present at game time; any player arriving late must be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
- C. The line up must remain as originally entered in the scorebook, regardless of changes made in the field. If a player must leave the game due to injury, ejection, or other reason, a line will be drawn through his/her name in the scorebook and the next person in the batting order will become the next legal batter.
- D. Any team will have a choice at the start of the game to use 1 on the following 2 substitution rules:
 - 1. If a team chooses to use the "Everybody Bats Rule", then the team can use free substitution. (Any player can be substituted into a position and re-entered as many times as they want). However, it will be the umpire's discretion whether teams are delaying the game or not. The purpose of this rule is to allow everyone to play the field within the game's time limit.
 - 2. If a team chooses to use the regular ASA rules, then the team can only use the "One Re-entry Rule". Any starting player in the field will be allowed to leave the game as a fielder and re-enter only one time. Any player not starting in the field will be allowed to enter the game as a fielder only one time; however, a substitute does not have to play the same defensive position as the starter he/she replaced. Whoever has been substituted for a starter must come out of the game when the starter re-enters. Keep in mind that a starter can never go into the game for another starter.
- E. Under no circumstances will pinch running be allowed when a team utilizes the "Everybody Bats Rule". A player that is injured or ejected while running the bases will be declared out and can not re-enter the game under any circumstances.
- F. When a team utilizes the "Everybody Bats Rule", any of the following offenses will result in game forfeiture if the offended team brings the offense to the attention of the umpire:
 - 1. When a team begins the game batting ten (10) players and has substitutes on the bench, and then later on in the game starts batting everyone.
 - 2. When a team bats eleven (11) or more batters and still has players in the line-up book that are not batting.
 - 3. When a team bats a non-starting player in one of the first ten (10) spots in the batting order.
- G. **EJECTION POLICY:** Any player(s) that is ejected from a game will be suspended one game and will be charged a fine of \$10.00. Fines must be paid at the Parks & Recreation Department before the player(s) suspended will be reinstated. Any player who participates while suspended, or without paying his/her fine, is subject to ejection from the Adult Softball Program.

NOTE:

If a player that has been suspended chooses to play without paying the fine, this will cause his/her team to forfeit the game or games in which he/she participated in. Each team will be charged \$16.00 for a forfeited

game, which must be paid before that team can participate in any further games. Teams which fail to pay their fees to the Dept. will not be allowed to register for further league or tournament play.

CASUAL PROFANITY RULE

Casual profanity pertains to expletives NOT DIRECTED AT THE UMPIRE OR OPPOSING PLAYERS, but most likely at the player himself who uses it as vent to frustration. This type of profanity will be penalized as an "OUT" being declared against the offensive or defensive team, whichever is guilty of the violation. These "OUTS" will be treated as DELAYED DEAD BALLS. Profanity directed at others, especially umpires will still result in EJECTION!!!

Examples:

Offensive Team Violation:

Bases loaded and the batter pops up to the infield. He immediately lets out his favorite profanity. What happens in the fielder catches the ball? The batter can't be called out, because he already is. Therefore, the next batter is "OUT". If the batter is the third out of the inning then the first batter up in the next inning is declared an "OUT".

Defensive Team Violation:

Shortstop "boots" the ball and utters a profanity where it can be heard by the people in the stands, the defensive team is penalized by having their first batter called out when they come to bat next.

Exception:

If a player utters a profanity under his breath because of a poor hit or being thrown out, the Casual Profanity Rule will not be enforced. That's because no one in the crowd would be able to hear the profanity if it was utters under his breath.

The whole purpose of this rule is to have players clean up their act and make for a more wholesome family atmosphere at the ball park. The umpire will need to use his own judgement as to the severity and enforcement of this rule, but we all should try to be as consist as possible, night in and night out. Certain words (i.e. "F-word") should be automatic calls, and others if said loud enough. Umpires need to warn and explain the rule to both managers in their pre-game conferences, especially at the start of all seasons. Profanity does not belong in softball, so lets all work toward cleaning up our game.